

Minutes of the May 19, 2004 Meeting
Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Building

Present: Robert Dahn (chair), Jennifer Kaufman, Quentin Kessel, Lanse Minkler, and Frank Trainor.

Absent: Denise Burchsted, John Silander, and Robert Thorson.

Town Staff: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent

Guest: Becky Cleary

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM.
2. The Minutes of the April 21, 2004 meeting were discussed. An objection was made that Section 5b of the minutes understated the strong tone of the discussion about the lack of Conservation Commission representation on, or input to, the proposed Municipal Aquifer Protection Agency. As this matter was to be discussed again later in the meeting, it was agreed to leave that portion of the minutes as they were written. The CC was told that an editorial change to the Wild Rose Estates paragraph recommended earlier by Minkler would be made. Following a motion by Minkler, seconded by Trainor, the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Dahn reported that the Fenton River water levels appeared to be good and that he had been fishing in the river.
4. Torrey Boundary Marking: Kaufman will get a copy of the map of the Town property at the end of Holley drive so that Dahn and Kessel can walk and mark the boundary of that remaining portion of the Town property.
5. Shelter Falls Boundary Marking: Kaufman reported that she and Silander have agreed to mark these boundaries.
6. Electronic Trail Guide: Kaufman reported that the DEP has authorized a grant for the marking of nine of the Town properties with public access. This will permit maps with GPS markings to be downloaded from the Town website.
7. Dorwart Property: The Town expects to meet a June 10 deadline for submitting a grant to the DEP for the purchase of approximately 60 of the 102 acres of this property. It was noted that this is an important acquisition in that it will protect the view from Coney Rock, protect vernal pools and provide a trail connection between the Lions Club property and Joshua's Trust protected property, which in turn connects with other Town Open space property with access all the way to the Nipmuck trail along the Fenton River.

Kessel moved and Minkler seconded that the CC support the Town's application for a grant to assist with this purchase. The CC designated Kaufman to write a letter to the Town Council in support of this grant application.

8. Town Council Referral - Ordinance Designating Municipal Aquifer Protection Agency:

The CC reviewed the discussion of the previous month's meeting. The CC has worked hard to get members with technical expertise. With regard to aquifer protection, the CC has a subcommittee designated for the investigation of aquifer issues consisting of Robert Thorson, a geologist and geophysicist who is knowledgeable in hydrogeology, John Silander, an ecology and evolutionary biologist, and Quentin Kessel, a physicist. This subcommittee has met with University officials and questioned their aquifer consultants regarding the Fenton River Aquifer. It has further exchanged information with the Commissioner of the DEP on the new aquifer regulations and recommended they revisit certain aspects of their mapping regulations because they leave a number of aquifers across the state without adequate protection.

Earlier Kessel had been told by Town Planner Padick that years ago the Town Council had already designated the PZC to serve as the Town's aquifer protection agency, but now it appears that this authorization was never adopted by ordinance as is now required by the State. It was not clear to the CC that this aquifer protection agency had been particularly active in protecting the Town's aquifers. Various ways in which the CC might share its expertise and provide input into aquifer protection matters were discussed. Suggestions included:

- a) Naming the CC as the aquifer protection agency as this would be consistent with its charge under State Statutes.
- b) As it is unlikely that all members of either the CC or the PZC have the expertise, interest or time for another committee, some members felt that it would be appropriate to name a seven-person Municipal Aquifer Protection Agency consisting of four PZC members and three CC members (the CC's aquifer protection subcommittee).
- c) Rewriting the May 24, 2004 draft of this ordinance so that in Section 4 it read the PZC plus one member of the CC with corresponding changes to section 5B.
- d) Incorporating into the ordinance an arrangement analogous to the present IWA/CC referral wherein the Aquifer Protection Agency would be mandated to request input from the CC before making decisions.

It was agreed that Kessel should forward these suggestions to the Town Manager's Office informing them that the CC preferences are for b) first, and c) second, and with d) to be incorporated into the ordinance regardless of the makeup of the new agency.

9. IWA Referrals.

- a) W1259 - Chovnick - 213 Stafford Road (Route 32)/Cider Mill Road. Map date 4/2/96 revised to show location of new building and parking arrangement. The CC notes that although referred to in the application no sediment or erosion controls were shown on the map. Kessel moved and Minkler seconded that because most of the

building is placed within the regulated area and the 11 parking spaces are on top of a steep bank next to the brook that the proposed construction and parking may have a significant negative impact on the brook and wetlands. The motion passed unanimously.

b) W1260 - Dinsmore - Loraine Drive. Map date 4/27/04. This application is for a shed located in the buffer. Kaufman moved and Minkler seconded that there should be no significant negative impact on the associated wetland. The motion passed unanimously.

c) W1261 - Janke - 12 Daleville Road. Map date 4/28/04. This is an application for a deck to be placed on 20 footings. Minkler moved and Trainor seconded that there should be no significant negative impact providing that no portion of the deck is closer than 10 feet to the wetlands. The motion passed unanimously.

d) W1262, a Town of Mansfield application for Merrow Meadow trail work was tabled.

5. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Kessel
Secretary